

**MINUTES**

**AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING – WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2016 - 5:30 P.M. -  
CARIBOU COURTHOUSE - ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING ROOM - CARIBOU**

**PRESENT**

Paul J. Adams, Chairperson, County Commissioners  
Norman L. Fournier, County Commissioner  
Paul J. Underwood, County Commissioner  
Douglas F. Beaulieu, County Administrator  
Paul Bernier, Public Works Director  
Sheriff Darrell Crandall  
Chief Deputy Shawn Gillen  
Darren Woods, EMA Director (and spouse)  
Detective Dan Robertson  
Mr. Glenn Hines (Hammond resident)

ART. 1. Chairperson Paul J. Adams called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ART. 2. Public Comment Period.

Chairperson Paul J. Adams recognized Mr. Glenn Hines, a resident from Hammond, and asked him to address the County Commissioners. Mr. Hines is aggrieved that the weight limit on the Mitchell Bridge in Hammond has been substantially reduced. This has had an adverse impact on his livelihood and he believes it has had an adverse impact on his property value. He has recently received notification from the Town of Hammond that his request for property abatement has been denied. He was advised that he may file a request for abatement through the Office of the County Commissioners. Mr. Hines thanked the County Commissioners for their consideration.

ART. 3. Approval of agenda.

Chairperson Paul J. Adams entertained a motion to approve the agenda.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to approve the agenda.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 4. Chairperson Paul J. Adams entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2016 County Commissioners' Meeting.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Paul J. Adams to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2016 County Commissioners' Meeting. Commissioner Norman L. Fournier abstained from voting on the minutes and so noted the same on the original, signed document.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 5. The Commissioners approved and signed the following:

- A) Attendance Record.
- B) Bills and Warrants.
- C) Easton Tax Abatement Discussion and Decision.

The County Commissioners had a discussion regarding this tax abatement matter. They felt that the Applicants were credible, straight forward individuals, and presented good testimony. In short, given the simplicity of their structures, their buildings are over-valued.

The County Commissioners were disappointed that the Town of Easton was not very cooperative regarding information that was requested by the Commission. No comparable properties such as agricultural barns were included in their representative sampling. The Commission also requested grading information that would have facilitated its deliberations but that information was not provided. Finally, comparable, property sales information was not available for the Commission to evaluate.

As articulated in the decision, the County Commissioners felt that a 25% reduction in the assessed value should be ordered for each of the Applicants. It represents a good faith attempt by the Commission to award a fair and equitable abatement.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Paul J. Adams to grant partial abatement to each of the six (6) Applicants that were party to this abatement as provided for in the written decision.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

County Commissioner Norman L. Fournier abstained from this decision as he was not present for the hearing.

ART. 6. Bids:

- A) Snow removal bids for Fort Kent Registry of Deeds.

A bid was received from the following contractor:

	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
T&D Snow Removal, LLC. Fort Kent, Maine	\$2,100.00	\$2,200.00	\$2,250.00

**MOTION:**

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to table the bids pending review by the County Administrator with authorization to award the bid to the only bidder provided the bid specifications are met.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

B) Two (2) Surplus vehicles.

The following bids were received:

	2003 Chevrolet Pick Up
Jason Howland Houlton, ME	\$2,017.99
Jason Howland Houlton, ME	\$1,817.00
Robert Dickinson Oakfield, ME	\$1,015.00
Todd R. Collins Presque Isle, ME	\$1,839.00

**MOTION:**

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to table the bids pending review by the County Administrator with authorization to award the bid to the highest bidder.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

	2005 Expedition
Jeffrey Pickering Houlton, ME	\$1,551.00
David E. Sonderman Oakfield, ME	\$330.00
Yousef Dabbagh Island Falls, ME	\$408.00
Robert Dickinson Oakfield, ME	\$715.00

**MOTION:**

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to table the bids pending review by the County Administrator with authorization to award the bid to the highest bidder.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 7. Consideration/approval of Personnel Policy changes.

County Administrator Doug Beaulieu reviewed the proposed Personnel Policy changes with the County Commissioners and urged their approval. After a brief discussion with the County Commissioners, the following motion was made:

**MOTION:**

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to approve the Personnel Policy changes as recommended by the County Administrator.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 8. Contracts:

- A) Three (3) year Fire Protection Agreement for the Unorganized Township of TAR2 with the Town of Linneus.
- B) Three (3) year Solid Waste Agreement for the Unorganized Township of TDR2 with the Town of Bridgewater.
- C) Three (3) year Fire Protection Agreement for the Unorganized Townships of TDR2 and T9R3 with the Town of Bridgewater.

County Administrator Doug Beaulieu recommended that the County Commissioners approve these three (3) contracts in one (1) motion. The County Commissioners agreed by consensus.

Public Works Director Paul Bernier reviewed all three (3) contracts and recommended approval of the same.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to approve all three contracts as recommended by the Public Works Director and to authorize the County Administrator to execute the agreements.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 9. Position Funding Discussion.

Sheriff Darrell Crandall reviewed his June 7, 2016 memorandum with the County Commissioners. While the operational functions of the Sheriff's Office fall under the jurisdiction of the Sheriff, funding issues remain within the purview of the County Commissioners. Because of the changes articulated in the memorandum, Sheriff Crandall asked the County Commissioners whether the repurposing of a Sergeant's position to that of Deputy should be moved to the 1075 Law Enforcement account or left as is, particularly as it relates to the FY 2017 Jail Budget. Sheriff Crandall indicated that he had no strong preference as to a course of action.

After a brief discussion between the County Commissioners and the Sheriff, it was decided that this issue will be discussed in the context of the budget process.

ART. 10. Approval of Deputy Sheriff Commissions.

Sheriff Darrell Crandall recommended that the County Commissioners approve the recommissioning of Rudolph "Rudy" Levesque of Linneus and Peter Arno of Dover-Foxcroft as full time Deputy Sheriffs and Cyr Martin of Eagle Lake as part-time Deputy Sheriff.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to approve the recommissioning of Rudolph “Rudy” Levesque of Linneus and Peter Arno of Dover-Foxcroft as full time Deputy Sheriffs and Cyr Martin of Eagle Lake as part-time Deputy Sheriff.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 11. Approval of ATV access route for Benedicta Township.

Public Works Director Paul Bernier recommended the County Commissioners give their endorsement for an ATV access route on the Pond Road in Benedicta. He explained the need for this access route and urged the County Commissioners to sign a letter of support, which he drafted on their behalf.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to approve the ATV access route on the Pond Road in Benedicta.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 12. County Commissioners’ Report:

A) MCCA/Risk Pool Update.

Commissioner Norman L. Fournier provided an update on today’s Risk Pool/MCCA meeting.

Risk Pool Meeting – Commissioner Norman L. Fournier reported that a review of pending and closed cases was provided and upcoming training for Correctional Officers in Aroostook County scheduled for July 20, 2016 may be rescheduled.

MCCA Meeting – Commissioner Norman L. Fournier advised that the 2016 MCCA Convention will be held in Bangor in September and Senator Angus King is the keynote speaker; a meeting site for the 2017 MCCA Convention is yet to be decided; Commissioners Baldacci and McGrane have been re-elected as representatives to the National Association of Counties (NACo); and, a spirited discussion was held regarding proposed legislation on behalf of the counties. Commissioner Fournier indicated that some counties are opposed to removing the jail cap. He asked his colleagues if they would support stand-alone legislation or partnering with other, like-minded counties to repeal the cap during the 128<sup>th</sup> Legislature. The County Commissioners directed the County Administrator to send an email or memorandum to Rosemary Kulow articulating the County of Aroostook’s position on the jail cap issue. Sheriff Crandall indicated his support for the same.

B) Other items of interest.

None.

ART. 13. County Administrator’s Report:

A) Local Road Assistance Program (LRAP).

County Administrator Doug Beaulieu recommended that the County Commissioners approve acceptance of LRAP funds in the amount of \$73,904.00 for fiscal year 2017.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to approve LRAP funding for 2017 in the amount of \$73,904.00.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

B) Bid award.

The bid for the 2016 Ford pickup was awarded to York’s of Houlton in the amount of \$27,388.00.

C) Scheduling of a poverty abatement hearing.

The County Commissioners have tentatively scheduled a Poverty Abatement hearing on July 25, 2016 at noon in Houlton.

D) Other items of interest:

County Administrator Doug Beaulieu recommended approval of Dylan Greenier of Woodland as a paid-call fire fighter for North Lakes Fire and Rescue Department.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to approve Dylan Greenier of Woodland as a paid-call fire fighter for North Lakes Fire and Rescue Department.

ART. 14. Other Business.

None.

ART. 15. Executive Session.

None.

ART. 16. Adjournment.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

ATTEST: A True Copy  
of Commissioners’ Meeting

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Douglas F. Beaulieu  
County Administrator

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AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
DATE: July 13, 2016